

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 EA-07 AGR-05 CU-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8119

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 11884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP EG

SUBJECT: CERP 0002 (AS AVAILABLE): EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: A. STATE A-7841 OF 10/18/74,

B. CAIRO 9801

C. CAIRO 11592

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE IN 1976 AS EGYPT SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US. USSR PERSISTED IN REFUSING SUPPLY EGYPT WITH REPLACEMENT ARMS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES, AND REPEATED EFFORTS FAILED TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF RESCHEDULING EGYPTIAN DEBT TO USSR. PRESIDENT SADAT'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS OF SOVIET "DECEPTIONS" BECAME MORE STRIDENT, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH SINAI II AGREEMENT. COOLING OF RELATIONS

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WITH USSR WAS REFLECTED IN SLACKENING OF EGYPTIAN

CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH MOST COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

2. PART I - APPRAISAL OF POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/MILITARY RELATIONS. EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE IN 1975, WITH LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, OR MILITARY PROBLEMS. POLITICALLY, SOVIET UNION CONTINUED TO WATCH IRRITABLY FROM DIPLOMATIC SIDELINES AS PRESIDENT SADAT, ESCHEWING SOVIET CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS, SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED SECOND-STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN SEPTEMBER, AND CROWNED HIS POLICY OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BY HIS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO US OCTOBER 27-NOV6. BY CONTRAST, BREZNEV'S VISIT TO EGYPT, WHICH WAS POSTPONED ABRUPTLY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, FAILED TO MATERIALIZE DURING 1975 AND HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN SHELVED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING YEAR ON RESCHEDULING EGYPT'S DEBTS TO USSR, ALTHOUGH A FEW NEW ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED WITH USSR AND OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES. PRES. SADAT, AS YEAR PROGRESSED, BECAME MORE OUTSPOKEN IN HIS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF DIFFICULTIES OF DEALING WITH SOVIETS, THEIR UNTRUSTWORTHINESS, AND THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP EGYPT WEAK AND DEPENDENT AS EVIDENCED BY CONTINUING REFUSAL SINCE 1973 TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES. HIS REVELATIONS OF SOVIET PERFDY TOWARDS EGYPT BECAME PARTICULARLY HARSH FOLLOWING SOVIET DENUMICATION OF THE SINAI II AGREEMENT (REF B). AT THIS WRITING SADAT HAS CONSIDERABLY TONED DOWN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF SOVIETS AND ARRIVAL OF SOVIET DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER ON NOVEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS DEBT RESCHEDULING SUGGESTS SOVIETS TOO ARE PREPARED TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS. A VISIT BY FONMIN GROMYKO IS RUMORED FOR NEAR FUTURE.

4. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN PERVADING ATMOSPHERE OF WORSENING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH USSR, OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC ISSUE BETWEEN EGYPT AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DURING PAST YEAR HAS BEEN  
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QUESTION OF RESCHEDULING SOVIET DEBT. TWO GOE DELEGATIONS VISITED MOSCOW IN 1975 SEEKING REVISION OF REPAYMENT TERMS AND SOVIET GROUP ARRIVAL CAIRO NOVEMBER 19 FOR SAME PURPOSE (REF C). IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO BE FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT TO EXTENT DESIRED BY EGYPT. AGREEMENTS REPORTEDLY SIGNED THIS YEAR ARE IN INDUSTRIAL FIELD. (RUBLES 70 MILLION TO ESTABLISH CEMENT COMPLEX AT ASSIUT, AND, AS AGREED IN 1974, EXPAND CAPACITY OF NAG HAMADI ALUMINUM

PLANT) AND POWER GENERATION (RUBLES 7 MILLION FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, PLUS RELATIVELY MINOR SUMS FOR IMPROVING SUEZ CANAL AND ASWAN HIGH DAM POWER STATIONS).  
NUMBER OF OTHER PROJECTS DISCUSSED IN FEBRUARY 1975  
APPARENTLY HAVE LED TO NOTHING MORE CONCRETE THAN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO DO FEASIBILITY STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF ABU TARTUR PHOSPHATES.

5. ONLY ROMANIA AND PLAND AMONG BLOC NATIONS UNDERTOOK WHAT APPEAR TO BE NEW INITIATIVES IN ASSISTANCE FIELD. PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED WITH ROMANIA IN AUGUST FOR FORMATION OF JOINT EGYPTIAN-ROMANIAN BANK WITH \$20 MILLION CAPITAL. GOE MINECON ANNOUNCED AT SAME TIME "NEW" \$100 MILLION ROMANIAN LOAN TO CONSOLIDATE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PROTOCOL WITH POLAND WAS SIGNED PREVIOUS MONTH PROVIDING FOR UP TO \$75 MILLION IN PROJECT AID COVERING RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS FROM INDUSTRY TO MINERAL EXTRACTION. (HIGH LEVEL GOE OFFICIALS HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN DRAWING DOWN OF COMMUNIST CREDITS IF QDIFFICIENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE WEST.) CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE GDR AND HUNGARY, AS WELL AS POLAND, SIGNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCORDS WITH EGYPT DURING YEAR. CHINA, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS IN APRIL, WILL ESTABLISH BRICK FACTORY AT MINIA, THUS UTILIZING LONGSTANDING FF 275 MILLION CREDIT.

6. TRADE. 1975 TRADE PROTOCOL WITH USSR PROVIDED FOR A REPORTED 8 PERCENT INCREASE, TO \$851 MILLION, OF COMMERCE IN EGYPTIAN COTTON AND YARN AND SOVIET COAL, COKE, OILS AND TIMBER. CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S 1975 PROTOCOL CALLED FOR LE 70 MILLION IN TRADE, PLAND'S FOR \$160 MILLION AND ROMANIA'S FOR 65 MILLION POUNDS TERLING. A LONG-TERM TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH GDR IN OCTOBER PROVIDING FOR 100 MILLION POUNDS STERLING IN TRADE BY 1980. TRADE PROTOCOL WITH CHINA FOR 1975

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CALLED FOR LE 43 MILLION IN EGYPTIAN COTTON EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF FINISHED TEXTILES. ONLY NOTABLE INCREASES IN TOTALS FORESEEN IN PROTOCOLS ARE THOSE IN TRADE WITH CHINA (26 PERCENT RISE) AND POLAND (52 PERCENT). DATA ON VALUE OF ACTUAL SHIPMENTS NOT YET AVAILABLE, HOWEVER.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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7. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. INFORMATION CONCERNING PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IS LIMITED. SOME SOVIET EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED SINCE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR --MOST NOTABLE A TOTAL OF LESS THAN FIFTY JET AIRCRAFT (MIG 23, MIG 21, AND SU 20) BUT THESE DELIVERIES, WHICH APPARENTLY WERE IN FULFILLMENT OF OLD CONTRACTS, WERE TERMINATED LATE LAST SPRING. IT IS APPARENT THAT SOME DELIVERIES, OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM SOVIET UNION HAVE CONTINUED BUT VERY LITTLE CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THESE DELIVERIES IS AVAILABLE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ALL BRANCHES OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ARE SORELY PRESSED FOR SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS WITH WHICH EGYPTIAN MILITARY IS PRIMARILY OUTFITTED. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THIS EMBASSY REGARDING DOLLAR VALUE OF SUCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS MAY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED.

8. RELIABLE REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO EFFECT THAT NO NEW CONTRACTS FOR MAJOR ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT ARE BEING CONSUMMATED BETWEEN EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION. NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS IN COUNTRY HAS PROBABLY BEEN REDUCED TO UNDER 200. IT IS KNOWN THAT EGYPT IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN SPARE PARTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM VARIOUS WARSAW PACT  
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COUNTRIES AS WELL AS FROM YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA AND NORTH KOREA, BUT THERE IS THUS FAR NO INDICATION THAT THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. NEW TRAINING CORSES SCHEDULED FOR EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL THIS YEAR IN USSR HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

BY THE SOVIETS ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN ON-GOING COURSES IN SOVIET UNION ARE APPARENTLY BEING PERMITTED COMPLETE THESE COURSES. THESE MEN PROBABLY NUMBER LESS THAN 75 AND AS THEY GRADUATE, ARE NOT BEING REPLACED.

9. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT OF YEAR WITH REGARD TO SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN EGYPT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGOROUS CONSTRAINTS WITH REGARD TO USE OF EGYPTIAN PORTS, ANCHORAGES, AND FACILITIES. SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS HAVE NOW BEEN EXCLUDED FROM USING THAT PORTION OF SOLLUM ANCHORAGE WHICH IS EITHIN EGYPTIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, (12 NM), AND HAVE BEEN TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM USE OF MERSA MATRUH. SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS, INCLUDING SUBMARINES, STILL MAKE USE OF SHIPYARD FACILITES AT ALEXANDRIA, BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT EACH SOVIET SHIP VISIT NOW REQUIRES HIGH-LEVEL CLEARANCE, WHEREAS BEFORE CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR THESE VISITS WERE GIVEN LOW-LEVEL, PRO FORMA APPROVAL. FOR SOVIETS, ACCESS TO PORT OF ALEXANDRIA IS MAJOR REMAINING MILITARY INTEREST IN EGYPT--AT PRESENT WITHOUT EQUAL IN MEDITERRANEAN-- AND WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO BE TERMINATED SHORT OF MAJOR NEW CRISIS IN EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS.

10. PART IV-A-CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. ENCOURAGED BY AVOWED STATE POLICIES AND SPURRED BY PRES. SADAT'S ROUNDLY DENUNCIATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON DIFFICULTIES OF DEALING WITH SOVIETS, EGYPTIAN PUBLIC SENTIMENT HAS BECOME EVEN MORE STRIDENTLY ANTI-SOVIET DURING PAST YEAR. MANY BOOKS AND PRESS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED ATTACKING "RED DANGER" AND "SOVIET IMPERIALISM", AND EXPOSING "COMMUNIST-ZIONIST LINK", A TREND FATHERED BY LATE KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA.

11. THOUGH THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CHANGE IN STATUS OF STANDING CULTURAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND BLOC COUNTRIES, ACTIVITIES HAVE SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY IN TERMS BOTH OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY. FOR EXAMPLE, BIWEEKLY SOVIET MAGAZINE AL-MIGALLA AL-SOVIETIVA AND SCORE OF OTHER SOVIET PUBLICATIONS ARE SUFFERING FROM SUBSTANTIAL DIP IN SALES. PRESTIGE CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL MAGAZINES FROM OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES ARE NOW  
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SELDOM AVAILABLE, AND SALES OF BLOC COUNTRY BOOKS NOT SIGNIFICANT. ONLY EXCEPTION IS SOVIET SHOWPIECE EXHIBIT AT ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR WHERE BOOKS, STAMPS AND RECORDS ARE OFFERED AT SUBSTANTIALLY DISCOUNTED PRICES.

12. RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING CONTINUES AT SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER, THOUGH WITHOUT PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING THAT HAS MARKED PAST YEARS. SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY SENT FILM TEAM TO CHOOSE 7-10 EGYPTIAN FEATURE FILMS TO BE SHOWN TO SOVIET AUDIENCES, AND SOVIETS ARE PAYING APPROXIMATELY HALF-MILLION DOLLARS TO PURCHASE AND RENNOVATE OLD CINEMA HOUSE IN CAIRO TO BE DEVOTED

EXCLUSIVELY TO RUSSIAN FILMS. TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMEN WERE EXHIBITED IN USSR FOR SIX MONTHS IN 1975. SOVIET REQUEST TO HAVE IT LONGER WAS REFUSED.

13. SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER CONTINUES ITS FAMILIAR FORMAT OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS OF WEEKLY CHILDREN'S CARTOON FILMS AND ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, COVERING EITHER SOVIET ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR EGYPTIAN-SOVIET COOPERATION AND INTERESTS, TWO OR THREE TIMES WEEKLY. ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO FAMILIAR FACES. OTHER BLOC CULTURAL CENTERS CONTINUE TO PROGRAM ON MODERATE SCALE. CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CENTER, FOR EXAMPLE, SERVES AS CONVENIENT GATHERING PLACE FOR EGYPTIAN ARTISTS AND OFTEN OFFERS THEM EXHIBIT FACILITIES. ITS WEEKLY FILM SHOWS ARE POORLY ATTENDED BECAUSE OF A DECLINE IN QUALITY OF FILMS BROUGHT IN UNDER NEW DIRECTOR. EAST GERMANS CONCENTRATE ON LANGUAGE LESSONS AND OFFER LITTLE ELSE. NEW EGYPTIAN-ALBANIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT JUST SIGNED OFFERING UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO EGYPTIAN STUDENTS STUDY IN ALBANIA.

14. CAIRO PRESS COLUMNISTS OCCASIONALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF EGYPTIAN SCHOLARS IN BLOC COUNTRIES. THERE IS GENERAL FEELING THAT SCHOLARSHIPS, WHILE GENEROUS, ARE NOT FOR COURSES THAT MEET TOP ACADEMIC STANDARDS. CONSEQUENTLY, FEW WELL-QUALIFIED STUDENTS ACCEPT THEM. AN EGYPTIAN ARTIST, RECENTLY OFFICIALLY INVITED TO POLAND AND BULGARIA TO EXHIBIT HER WORKS, ARRIVED IN WARSAW JUST AFTER ONE OF SADAT'S ANTI-SOVIET SPEECHES. HER PAINTINGS WERE HUNG BUT NEITHER COUNTRY FULFILLED COMMITMENTS TO PRINT CATALOGS, HOLD OPENINGS OR INVITE PATRONS NOR WERE HER EXHIBITIONS REVIEWED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THE ARTISTS IS MAKING ALL OF THIS WIDELY KNOWN IN CAIRO.

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15. NO FILM WEEKS OR THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES OF VISITING BLOC COUNTRY TROUPES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, BLOC FILMS ON TV ARE NOW INFREQUENT, AND PAID EDITORIAL ADS ON BLOC COUNTRIES HAVE DECREASED REMARKABLY.

16. SOVIET BOOKSHOP (DAR EL SHARQ) AND SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER AS WELL AS EAST GERMAN CULTURAL CENTER HAVE BRANCHES IN ALEXANDRIA, WHERE CENTER ACTIVITIES CONCERNED MAINLY WITH LANGUAGE TEACHING. ALL CENTERS HAVE FILM SHOWINGS AND READING ROOM FACILITIES. USSR CENTER OFFERS BOOKS IN ENGLISH, ARABIC AND RUSSIAN, WHILE OTHERS OFFER ONLY NATIONAL LANGUAGE. FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES, WHILE THEY EXIST ON PAPER, HAVE VIRTUALLY SUSPENDED OPERATIONS. ANNUAL GAMAL ABDEL NASSER PRIZE FOR GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO FOSTERING EGYPTIAN/RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP CONTINUES TO BE AWARDED BY THE EGYPTIAN AND RUSSIAN GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER. SOVIETS ARE STILL PROVIDING STAFF FOR EGYPTIAN HIGHER INSTITUTE OF BALLET AND MUSIC, AND THE

CONSERVATORY HAS SOVIET GUEST CONDUCTOR. OUTSIDE SOVIET BLOC  
THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL PROGRAMMING BY COMMUNIST  
COUNTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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